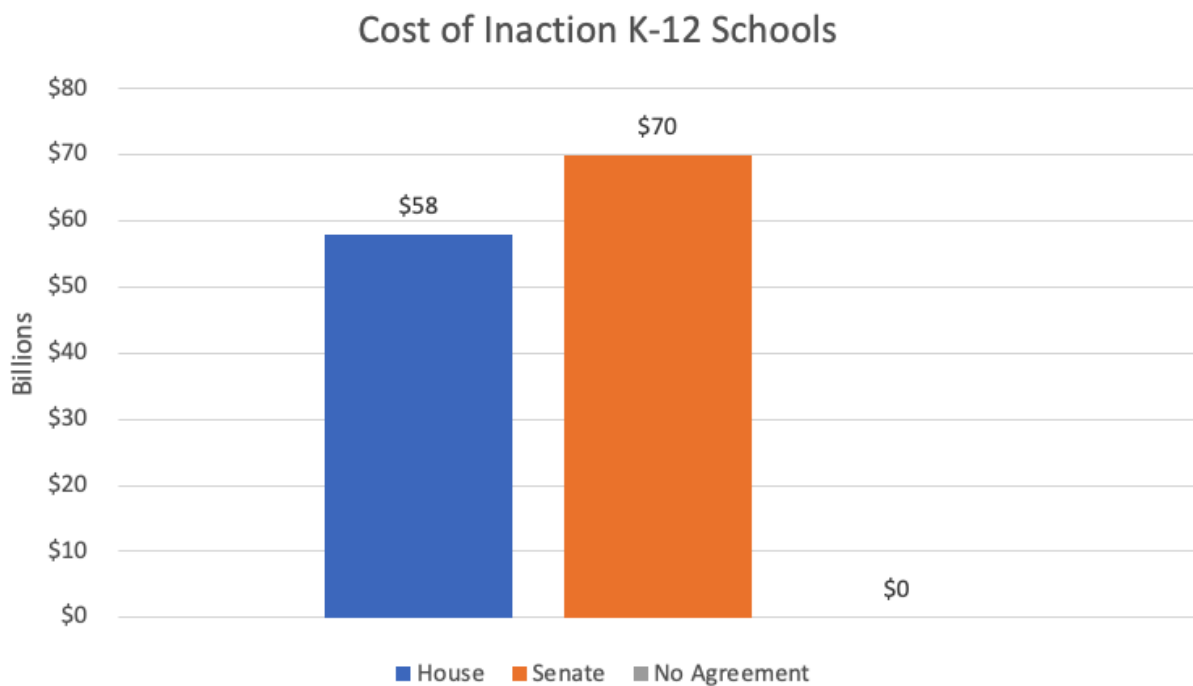


The Cost of Inaction for K-12 Schools

Inaction on additional pandemic relief legislation is resulting in schools not having the resources needed to safely reopen.

By the numbers: It will cost the average school district \$1.8 million or \$485 per student in additional costs for disinfectants, personal protective equipment, and other preparations to reopen for the 2020–2021 school year, according to the School Superintendents Association.

The relief bill passed in the House of Representatives provides \$58 billion for K-12 education, and legislation proposed in the Senate contains \$70 billion in aid. But no funds will reach our local schools if Congress and the administration fail to reach an agreement.



But there's more: School districts also worry about the potential for COVID-related litigation. Spurious lawsuits could bankrupt school districts who are already confronting large budget shortfalls. That is why the School Superintendents Association, Association of Educational Service Agencies, and the National School Boards Association have all [asked](#) Congress to enact a liability safe harbor for schools.

What we're saying: "The inability of Congress and the administration to reach a compromise has a very real and very large human cost," [said Neil Bradley](#), executive vice president and chief policy officer at the U.S. Chamber. "For schools and businesses to get the resources they need to safely reopen, for small businesses to keep their doors open, and for those that have lost their jobs to continue to provide for their families, Congress must act. There is no excuse for inaction."

What's ahead: The Chamber will highlight additional ways the impasse on pandemic relief in Congress is hurting American families, schools, and businesses as part of its "Cost of Inaction" campaign.

